

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2016
Durham Public Library**

APPROVED DECEMBER 13, 2016

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Shattuck (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews, Deb McNelly (Raymond)

staff present: Suzanne Petersen

members absent: Al Hall (excused), Anne Lightbody (excused), Dick Lord (excused)

Meeting began at 7:05.

summary of motions passed:

Carolyn Matthews made a motion to re-elect Dawn Genes as an associate LRAC member. Joe Foley seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from September 22, 2016:

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Cynthia Kelsey seconded. Minutes were approved with 6 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

workgroup highlights:

Project Review:

- The regularly scheduled review meeting set for Nov. 3 will be rescheduled due to several conflicts.
- Topics to be discussed include the following: Sig Sauer fire pond expansion wildlife considerations, auto recycling facility in Candia.
- Concerns reported about shoreland work in Raymond are being closely monitored by the Town of Raymond engineer and NHDES.

Wild and Scenic:

The group approved up to \$2000 to support additional analysis of water quality data for the purpose of outreach to technical peers, municipal administrators, and the general public.

Outreach, Recreation, Project Review, Wild and Scenic details:

See attached meeting notes at end.

town issues:

- Lee: Suspected illegal retaining wall was reported to the town code enforcement officer for investigation and follow-up.
- Newmarket: Suspected invasive milfoil infestation was investigated and mapped by NHDES. No invasive species were found. Abundant growth was noted, but it seems to be a consequence of low flows this past summer. Annual GPS mapping of aquatic plants to document boom and bust cycles and to detect invasives was recommended.
- Candia: Proposed expansion of an auto recycling facility seems to be moving forward without any permits. Project review will discuss further in November.

clarification of NH Rivers Management and Protection Program jurisdiction:

Certain committee members are interpreting language in RSA 483 differently. While some feel that when a river is designated, the whole watershed is protected, the actual language and intent is that only designated rivers and the jurisdictional corridor are protected. Newly established rules have tried to clarify this. According to previous shoreland protection rules, all NH designated rivers were subject to the same rules. The amendments to RSA 483 passed in 2016 exempt 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order streams from full shoreland protection rules, but do protect the first 50 feet around these streams. For the Lamprey rivers, the designation in 2011 specifically exempted 1st-3rd order streams from shoreland protections. Those exemptions remain in place following this year's amendments. This year's amendments also make clear that all designated river segments must be classified by stream order so that all parties know what rules apply.

re-election of associate member:

Carolyn Matthews made a motion to re-elect Dawn Genes as an associate LRAC member. Joe Foley seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

LRAC organizational issues- continued discussion from September:

- New members need lots of support and help for the first year or more.
 - They should not be pressured to join workgroups too early.
 - They need to feel they have a seat at the table and that they have something to offer. They should be welcomed as advisory colleagues. Meetings should not focus solely what has been accomplished; they should also include invitations to help with what needs to be done.
 - The level of expertise present in the established committee is intimidating to new members. New members should be offered specific tasks to help them become better integrated and increase their own level of expertise.

- New members need useful, succinct information that tells them what LRAC is and does. Expectations for participation need to be clear.
- We need to change our tactics regarding recruitment of new members.
 - Create a targeted effort to engage riparian landowners.
 - Make better use of existing pools of potential volunteers, such as the natural resources program offered through the Cooperative Extension and the Stewardship Network.
- Our work priorities should be derived from the *2013 Lamprey Rivers Management Plan*.
- Committee members need and enjoy opportunities for continuing education.

Action items:

<i>issue/problem</i>	<i>strategy</i>	<i>who</i>
new member integration	Develop welcome packet.	Suzanne, Deb, Cynthia
low recruitment	Target riparian landowners.	Preston, Caroline, Cynthia
low recruitment	Make better use of existing volunteer pools.	Cynthia, Suzanne
succinct message of what LRAC is and does	Create standard "elevator speech."	Suzanne, others
LRAC continuing education	Invite speakers to present at meetings.	outreach workgroup?

recent and upcoming events:

- October 25: aquatic invertebrates presentation, Candia library
- November 2: outreach/history workgroup meeting, office
- November 3: project review meeting cancelled, new date TBD
- November 8: Wild and Scenic Subcommittee meeting, Lee Safety
- November 12: aquatic invertebrates presentation, Newmarket Library
- November 15: history video & discussion, Epping library
- November 19: *Chick & Dee-Dee* reading, Epping library
- November 24: LRAC meeting cancelled for Thanksgiving

adjournment:

Preston Samuel made a motion to adjourn. Joe Foley seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

attachments from October:

Wild & Scenic Subcommittee draft minutes
 Outreach & Recreation Workgroup notes
 Project Review Workgroup notes

Wild and Scenic Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2016

Lee Safety Complex, 22 George Bennett Road, 7:00

DRAFT

representatives present: Joe Foley, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Preston Samuel

staff and affiliates present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to allocate \$2000 to support work by a UNH student supervised by the water quality work group to review and analyze data for the purpose of outreach to technical peers, municipal administrators, and the general public. Joe Foley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from September 13, 2016:

Anne Lightbody made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

- Due to the finalization of the previous five year cooperative agreement, both cleared and uncleared checks were reported. The NPS has deposited the first payments of the new cooperative agreement.
- The land protection account update from SELT was not available, but approximately \$220,000 remains available for new land protection projects.
- The cumulative five year budget report was reviewed. The statement ends with a zero balance with no money being returned to the NPS as unspent.

wildlife and ecology workgroup update:

Nothing to report.

history workgroup update:

The unredacted report on Sullivan's mills archaeology was reviewed by Janet Mackie of the Durham Historic Association. She had some questions about the level of confidence on the siting of two mills. The archaeologist will respond. A redacted version that avoids naming property owners and exact GPS coordinates has been requested.

land protection workgroup update:

- Negotiations between SELT and a proposed development on Route 125 in Epping are on-going regarding potentially protecting shorefront and a turtle nesting area on the site.
- Laurel Cox has been working with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission to get an updated map of conserved land that includes work recently completed as well as work to be completed by Dec. 31, 2016. The Commission is questioning whether LRAC should be getting the work for free. It seems likely that LRAC will need to pay \$210 for the map work and prints. The Commission has offered two payment scenarios going forward:
 - Pay \$55/hour for each new change or
 - Pay \$550 to upgrade and reorganize the data layers for easier updates in the future and then pay for quick updates.
- The group agreed by consensus to pay the \$210 for now and request a shape file on a disc. Laurel was asked to seek additional details about the upgrade package including a formal proposal that would largely guarantee quick turn-around time when updates are needed.

recreation workgroup update:

- Preston Samuel and Dick Lord did some surveying work at the canoe portage near Macallen Dam. The site is steep with large boulders. Preston will draft a plan to smooth the path somewhat, but major improvements seem unwarranted given the small number of paddlers who would be likely to use this site to portage from freshwater above the dam to salt water below the dam.
- Thompson Forest: We had requested that the site be evaluated for the least harmful ways to make the site accessible to the public, but it appears that the town has already begun to develop trails at the site. A big pile of wood chips was left near the parking lot and it is largely depleted now. Dick Lord will contact the conservation commission to enquire if they have any knowledge.

outreach workgroup update:

- Reports for two Small Grants and one passive recreation grant are in. Raymond's nature trail signs have been ordered and are scheduled to be installed this month.
- Chick and Dee-Dee books are being distributed to libraries and schools.
- A pocket park at the top of the Macallen Dam fish ladder is being considered as a joint project among LRAC, Newmarket, and NH Fish and Game. This idea will be included as plans for dam safety are developed.
- The twenty year report is almost complete. A few items are still needed, including the redacted Sullivan's Mills report and the most recent land protection map and funding numbers. Jim MacCartney will share the draft report with colleagues to determine the best way to publish this report and the other river reports.
- Long and short annual reports are almost ready for distribution.
- A presentation was made at Epping Library for special needs students that included reading *Chick and Dee-Dee* followed by a short walk along the river.

water quality workgroup update:

The group would like to see continued work on long-term data. Most data from multiple sources have already been collected; they need to be reviewed and analyzed. Target data include bacteria and phosphorus.

Dick Lord made a motion to allocate \$2000 to support work by a UNH student supervised by the water quality work group to review and analyze data for the purpose of outreach to technical peers, municipal administrators, and the general public. Joe Foley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Anne Lightbody will solicit students to submit proposals.

possible grant ideas to pursue in FY 2017:

Wayne Ives noted in his Lamprey River instream flow management discussions that a change in the way NHDES draws down Pawtuckaway Lake has resulted in a lowering of phosphorus concentration and an improvement in visual lake water quality. Is the phosphorus being removed from the lake affecting water quality in the North River? Are relief pulses intended to benefit the Lamprey actually bypassing much of the Lamprey in favor of the North River?

woody obstacles to paddling between Route 87 and Wadleigh Falls:

- Several observers have noted new beaver dams, including one at the former Bunker Pond and three on Rum Brook. These could have been built for normal winter food storage or the drought might have enabled the beavers to build dams that are precluded by higher water. It was agreed that most of these dams will probably be cleared out naturally with spring run-off.

- Preston Samuel noted that in areas adjacent to houses, the river is generally passable. Cleared by homeowners to improve the view, prevent trees from falling in and leaving gaps in the river's edge, or other reasons?
- Hand trimming of small branches using clippers would be insufficient to allow unobstructed passage in most cases. Some large wood will need to be removed or relocated. Preston suggested chopping full blockages in two and securing one half to the other along the shoreline on one side or the other. This would avoid the rigors of removal suggested in the DES guidelines. It would also minimize the loss of functions that the wood might have had in its prior location. Before any work is done, DES and abutters should approve.
- The intentions of Trout Unlimited seem to be in dispute among LRAC representatives and staff. Opinions range from thinking that TU wants to add wood to navigable sections of the main stem to thinking that TU is predominantly interested in creating habitat in lower order streams that lack older trees that could fall into the water naturally. The LRAC and TU should convene to clarify these issues and then work toward mutually agreeable projects that meet the goals of both groups and the needs of the river.
- Opinions of what the LRWA-LRAC woody obstacles group actually voted to do are not consistent. What duties have been delegated to each group? To what extent should woody material be removed? Discussion ended at an impasse. Meeting notes from LRWA and LRAC will be gathered to find results of any votes and then shared with the W&S Subcommittee for a vote at the November meeting: Should LRAC be involved in removing wood or not?

miscellaneous:

The outreach specialist's work agreement needs to be updated. A draft was shared with representatives for consideration. The group agreed by consensus to move the renewal date to match the calendar year rather than the fiscal year.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Anne Lightbody seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Outreach & Recreation Meeting Notes October 5, 2016

present: Dick Lord, Debbie McNelly, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen, Preston Samuel

grants update:

- Final report for kayak racks is in. \$215 in unspent funds will be donated to Newmarket Recreation with priority being given for kayak rack signage.
- Kayak race report is in, but is missing 2 receipts. (Post meeting note: the two missing receipts have been turned in. Report is complete.)
- Raymond nature trail: Kevin Martin was asked about sharing design plans for the main kiosk and he contacted Raymond. He got no response.
- Chick and Dee source materials, as well as first drafts, have been turned in.

recreation:

- Epping: Gordon Merrick is the new "trail master" and is in the process of assessing town trails. Preston will contact him. Laurel Cox has the list of easements in Epping.
- Lee: Lots going on with the town trails group.
- woody obstacles: Has DES seen the report? We would like their input and authorization to relocate some wood. We should meet with TU to discuss mutual goals and potential conflicts with our goal to remove wood and their goal to enhance habitat by adding wood. So far, wood additions have been made to non-navigable streams, but TU has not definitively ruled out adding wood to the main stem.

- Thompson Forest: We had requested that the site be evaluated for the least harmful ways to make the site accessible to the public, but it appears that the town has already begun to develop trails in the site. A big pile of wood chips was left near the parking lot and it is largely depleted now. Dick Lord will contact the conservation commission to enquire if they have any knowledge.
- Overall recreation work plan was reviewed. An update will be provided soon.

outreach:

- Has the water quality 23 year report been sent to DES for their review and comments?
- First draft of new representative packet was given to Debbie for review.
- Overall outreach work plan was reviewed. An update will be provided soon.

wish list for grants:

- upper watershed recreation map and tour guide
- septic system outreach- PREP?
- explore a balanced policy that enhances recreation and preserves habitat and wildlife.

**Project Review Meeting Notes
October 6, 2016**

present: Joe Foley, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen, Preston Samuel, Dick Snow

next meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Nov. 3, but a seminar on how to read plans and analyze them will be offered that date. If any projects need to be reviewed for November, it was suggested that the group review them at the next full LRAC meeting.

Candia: notice of intent:

The town sent a notice that a local auto recycling facility would like to expand its area. Preliminary review of the location reveals that it could be on the cusp of the quarter mile corridor of the North River. The scope of the project indicates that it will probably require an alteration of terrain permit. The committee does not have enough information to conduct a thorough review right now and will wait until the AoT application is received.

Zampa Restaurant, Epping, shoreland permit:

The restaurant at the corner of Route 125 and Route 27 would like to expand the footprint of the building and add a few new parking spaces. Comments focused on stormwater management and missing information.

Sig Sauer, Epping, wetlands permit:

The applicant wants to deepen an existing fire pond and install a dry hydrant to serve a recently completed building project. Comments focused on on-going discussions with NH Fish and Game regarding three species of concern that occur in the vicinity.

53 North Road, Deerfield, shoreland permit:

Applicant wishes to construct a multi-level patio, 16 x 12 pavilion, and landscaping features. Comments focused on erosion controls, stormwater management, and lack of landscaping details.

8 Cote Circle, Raymond, shoreland permit:

Applicant wishes to build a 3 bedroom house and septic system on a previously undeveloped lot. Comments focused on stormwater management and possible concentration of runoff over steep slopes.

14 Jannell Court, Epping, town permits:

Applicant wishes to expand parking and upgrade stormwater management. The new parking area will encroach on the town's 50 foot wetland buffer, but the project does not seem to require any state permits. There were no significant comments.

Raymond: possible permit violation:

Two citizens reported concerns about significant land clearing activity along the river near the Raymond/ Candia line. LRAC representatives from Raymond will be contacted and asked to coordinate fact-finding with the Raymond code enforcement officer. (Post meeting note: the activity has been thoroughly permitted in coordination with NHDES. This is a big remediation project and shoreland regulations have been waived.)

Governor's Run, Epping, update:

As noted on the Epping Conservation Commission meeting notes from August 9, 2016, discussions between the developer and NH Fish & Game are on-going regarding protection of species and habitats of concern at the site.